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JJGJR.: 07-06

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JUL 17 2006

JOSEPH E. CHOVANES  
SUITE 329  
5 GREAT VALLEY PARKWAY  
MALVERN PA 19355

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of	:	
Palumbo, et al.	:	
Application No. 09/909,382	:	DECISION
Filing Date: 23 July, 2001	:	
Attorney Docket No.: 33-99CIP	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed on 15 April, 2005, alleging unintentional delay under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b).

The Office regrets the delay in addressing this matter, however, it was received by the attorneys of the Office of Petitions only at this writing.

For the reasons set forth below, the petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) is **GRANTED**.

**BACKGROUND**

The record reflects that:

- Petitioner failed to reply timely and properly to the Notice of Allowance/Allowability and Fees Due mailed on 29 May, 2003, with reply due under a non-extendable deadline on or before 29 August, 2003;
- the instant application went abandoned after midnight 29 August, 2003;

- the Office mailed a Notice of Abandonment on 1 October, 2003;
- on 15 April, 2005, Petitioner filed the instant petition (with fee), reply in the form of fees due, made the statement of unintentional delay, and further alleged, *inter alia*, non-receipt of the Notice of Allowance because the Office mailed it to an incorrect address, to wit: 2027 Locust Street, rather than 2047 Locust Street..

Review of the transmittal of the instant application reveals, as Petitioner acknowledges, that Petitioner's office submitted the papers with the 2027 Locust Street address.

### STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Congress has authorized the Commissioner to "revive an application if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been "unavoidable." 35 U.S.C. §133 (1994).<sup>1</sup>

The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a) and (b) set forth the requirements for a petitioner to revive a previously unavoidably or unintentionally, respectively, abandoned application under this congressional grant of authority. The language of 35 U.S.C. §133 and 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a) is clear, unambiguous, and without qualification: the delay in tendering the reply to the outstanding Office action, as well as filing the first petition seeking revival, must have been unavoidable for the reply now to be accepted on petition.<sup>2</sup>

Delays in responding properly raise the question whether delays are unavoidable.<sup>3</sup> Where there is a question whether the delay was unavoidable, Petitioners must meet the burden of establishing that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §133 and 37 C.F.R. §1.137(a).<sup>4</sup> And the Petitioner must be diligent in attending to the matter.<sup>5</sup> Failure to do so does not

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<sup>1</sup> 35 U.S.C. §133 provides:

**35 U.S.C. §133 Time for prosecuting application.**

Upon failure of the applicant to prosecute the application within six months after any action therein, of which notice has been given or mailed to the applicant, or within such shorter time, not less than thirty days, as fixed by the Commissioner in such action, the application shall be regarded as abandoned by the parties thereto, unless it be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that such delay was unavoidable.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore, by example, an unavoidable delay in the payment of the Filing Fee might occur if a reply is shipped by the US Postal Service, but due to catastrophic accident, the delivery is not made.

<sup>3</sup> See: *Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice*, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53158-59 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 86-87 (October 21, 1997).

<sup>4</sup> See: *In re Application of G*, 11 USPQ2d 1378, 1380 (Comm'r Pats. 1989).

<sup>5</sup> See: Diligence in Filing Petitions to Revive and Petitions to Withdraw the Holding of Abandonment, 1124 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 33 (March 19, 1991). It was and is Petitioner's burden to exercise diligence in seeking either to have the holding of abandonment withdrawn or the application revived. See 1124 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office supra.

constitute the care required under Pratt,<sup>6</sup> and so cannot satisfy the test for diligence and due care.

(By contrast, unintentional delays are those that do not satisfy the very strict statutory and regulatory requirements of unavoidable delay, and also, by definition, are not intentional.<sup>7</sup>)

As to the Allegation  
of Unintentional Delay

The requirements for a grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) are the petition and fee, a statement/showing of unintentional delay, a proper reply, and—where appropriate--a terminal disclaimer and fee.

The record (including the petition filed on 15 April, 2005) does not necessitate a finding that the delay between midnight 29 August, 2003 (date of abandonment), and 15 April, 2005 (date of filing of grantable petition), was not unintentional.

Rather, the Patent and Trademark Office is relying in this matter on the duty of candor and good faith of Petitioners Palumbo and Ohl and their Counsel Joseph E. Chovanes (Reg. No. 33,481) when accepting Petitioners' representation that the delay in filing the response was unintentional.<sup>8</sup>

It appears that Petitioner has satisfied the requirements of the regulation.

CONCLUSION

The petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) hereby is **granted**.

The instant application is released to Publications Branch to be processed into a patent in due course.

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<sup>6</sup> The test of diligence in the prosecution of an application before the Commissioner is, in the context of ordinary human affairs, the test is such care as is generally used and observed by prudent and careful persons in relation to their most important business. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31 (Comm'r Pat. 1887); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r. Pat. 1913).

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, by example, an unintentional delay in the reply might occur if the reply and transmittal form are to be prepared for shipment by the US Postal Service, but other pressing matters distract one's attention and the mail is not timely deposited for shipment.

<sup>8</sup> See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214.



John J. Gillon, Jr.  
Senior Attorney  
Office of Petitions



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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	33-99 CIP
First Inventor	Charles E. PALUMBO, II
Title	LASER ALIGNMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS
Express Mail Label No.	EL875326731US

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
ADDRESS TO: Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

1.  Fee Transmittal Form (e.g. PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2.  Applicant claims small entity status.  
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3.  Specification [Total Pages 17]  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
  - Descriptive title of the invention
  - Cross Reference to Related Applications
  - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
  - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
  - Background of the Invention
  - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
  - Detailed Description
  - Claim(s)
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
4.  Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Pages 14]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages ]  
 a.  Newly executed (original or copy)  
 b.  Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
     (for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
  - i.  DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
  - Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application (see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b))
6.  Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

7.  CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8.  Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
  - a.  Computer Readable Form (CRF)
  - b.  Specification Sequence Listing on:
    - i.  CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
    - ii.  paper
  - c.  Statements verifying identity of above copies

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9.  Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10.  37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement  Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)
11.  English Translation Document (if applicable)
12.  Information Disclosure  Copies of IDS Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
13.  Preliminary Amendment
14.  Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
15.  Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16.  Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i).
17.  Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent
18.  Other:

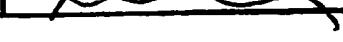
18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

Continuation       Divisional       Continuation-in-part (CIP)      of prior application No.: 09/326,424

Prior application information: Examiner: R. Gibson      Group Art Unit: 2859  
For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS ONLY: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

## 19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number or Bar Code Label      (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)      or  Correspondence address below

Name	Joseph E. Chovanes			
Address	2027 Locust Street			
City	Philadelphia	State	Pennsylvania	Zip Code
Country	US			
Name (Print/Type)	Joseph E. Chovanes	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,481	
Signature			Date	July 20, 2001

## CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached thereto are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on 07/20/2001, in an envelope as "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 CFR § 1.10, Mailing Label Number EL875326405US addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL  
for FY 2001**

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$ 355)**METHOD OF PAYMENT**1.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:

Deposit Account 50-0979

Deposit Account Name

Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17  
 Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27

2.  Payment Enclosed

Check  Credit Card  Money Order  
 Other

**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description
101	710	201	355	Utility filing fee
106	320	206	160	Design filing fee
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee
<b>SUBTOTAL (1)</b>				<b>\$355</b>

**2. EXTRA CLAIMS FEES**

		Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	17	-20**	= 0 X 9 =	\$
Independent Claims	2	-3**	= 0 X 18 =	\$
Multiple Independent			+ 135 =	\$

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20 independent claims in excess of 3 multiple dependent claim, if not paid
102	80	202	40	**Reissue independent claims over original patent
104	270	204	135	**Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
109	80	209	40	
110	18	210	9	
<b>SUBTOTAL (2)</b>				<b>\$</b>

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater. For Reissue, see above

**SUBMITTED BY CUSTOMER NO.**

Complete (if applicable)

Name (Prim/Type)	Joseph E. Chovanes	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,481	Telephone	(215) 575-7000
Signature				Date	July 20, 2001



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590                    05/29/2003  
Joseph E. Chovanes  
2027 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EXAMINER	
GIBSON, RANDY W	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2841	
DATE MAILED: 05/29/2003	

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/909,382	07/20/2001	Charles E. Palumbo II	33-99 CIP	1730

TITLE OF INVENTION: LASER ALIGNMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$650	\$300	\$950	08/29/2003

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

#### I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

## PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
**or Fax** (571)-273-2885

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

7590 05/29/2003

Joseph E. Chovanes  
2027 Locust Street  
61102865 AML12 00000004 09999382  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

788.00 IP  
388.00 IP  
81 FC:2501  
82 FC:1584

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

### Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/093,382	07/20/2001	Charles E. Palumbo II	33-99 CIP	1730

TITLE OF INVENTION: LASER ALIGNMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$650	\$300	\$950	08/29/2003
EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS			
GIBSON, RANDY W	2841	033-286000			

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).	2. For printing on the patent front page, list
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.	(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
<input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.	(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
	1 _____
	2 _____
	3 _____

**3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)**

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent):  Individual  Corporation or other private group entity  Government

**4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:**

- Issue Fee
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

**4b. Payment of Fee(s):**

- A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

**5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)**

- a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply, any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/909,382	07/20/2001	Charles E. Palumbo II	33-99 CIP	1730
7590	05/29/2003		EXAMINER	
Joseph E. Chovanes 2027 Locust Street Philadelphia, PA 19103			GIBSON, RANDY W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2841	
DATE MAILED: 05/29/2003				

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 147 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 147 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.